

THREAT HIGHLIGHT

ITAC

CIET

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

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CANADA: Extremists may attempt to seize the opportunity of public protest (U//FOUO)

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS



CANADA ↔ MEDIUM

↔ MEDIUM



Uniformed Personnel

U//FOUO

LEGEND: Established ↔ Raised ↑ Lowered ↓ Remains ↔

A convoy of Canadian truck drivers and their supporters are travelling from various cities to Ottawa to protest a federal vaccine mandate for truck drivers crossing the Canadian-United States (US) border. They are expected to arrive in Ottawa around 28 and 29 January. (U//FOUO)

While the organisers have declared that this is an act of peaceful protest, some ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) followers in Canada have seized upon this rally to advocate for their own ideological objectives. Extremists and other individuals supporting COVID-19 conspiracy theories and violent anti-authority/anti-government views have expressed intent to participate in the convoy and to attend the accompanying protests in Ottawa: (U//FOUO)

- During a news interview with a convoy supporter in Saskatoon on 26 January, the supporter advocated civil-war and also noted he and others have guns. (U//FOUO)
- Online supporters of the convoy are calling for the convoy and associated protest to be used as Canada's 'January 6' opportunity, in reference to the insurrection of Capitol Hill in the United States in 2021. (U//FOUO)
- An online supporter of the convoy and protest espoused online "If anything we should grab Trudeau by the neck and kick the s**t out of him for what he's done. (U//FOUO)

BACKGROUNDER ON PROTEST CONVOY

The Government of Canada recently announced a federal mandate for truckers crossing the border to be vaccinated by 15 January 2022. This led to the so-called Freedom Convoy 2022 protest being organised largely through social media. Various convoys started across Canada on 22 January with the goal of arriving in Ottawa over the weekend of 28 and 29 January. In recent days, organisers of the protest have sought to distance themselves from the more extreme views of a vocal minority. (U//FOUO)

KEY JUDGMENTS

- Those seeking to undertake legitimate protest and dissent are distinct from actors espousing violent extremism. ITAC judges it possible that Canadian IMVE actors will insinuate themselves within the protest actions in Ottawa over the period of 28 and 29 January. It is possible that opportunistic, low-level violence will occur in Ottawa over the weekend, based on the likely presence of IMVE adherents and law enforcement. (U//FOUO)
- A small number of IMVE adherents could leverage an emotional crowd to spur on violence and destruction of government property through mob mentality dynamics, with the most likely target of violence being law enforcement or government officials near prominent federal buildings. (U//FOUO)

ASSESSMENT NOTE: This assessment is based on recent open source reporting. The intelligence cut-off date is 1300 on 27 January 2022. ITAC has MEDIUM confidence in its assessments due to the dynamic situation of the convoys. (U)

- It is possible that protestors, including IMVE adherents, could use rudimentary capabilities, such as trucks, cargo and fuel, to cause disruption to infrastructure and destruction of property. Uniformed personnel are the most likely target of opportunistic or low-level violence. (U//FOUO)
- The convergence of people in Ottawa represents an opportunity for other individuals or small groups inspired by Religiously Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE) to capitalize on a potentially chaotic environment to conduct an unsophisticated attack. However, this is unlikely due to safety mitigation measures in place. (U//FOUO)
- We note that Parliament returns from Christmas adjournment on January 31 and this could motivate a dedicated group of protestors to prolong their protest in Ottawa and/or seek interaction with Canadian politicians. (U//FOUO)
- A coordinated, complex terrorist attack or planned storming of Parliament or other federal locations is unlikely. (U//FOUO)
- Due to the level of involvement of law enforcement and mitigation measures in place, ITAC assesses that the National Terrorism Threat Level (NTTL) and the terrorism threat level for uniformed personnel remain unchanged at MEDIUM; a violent act of terrorism could occur. (U//FOUO)

**A CANADIAN EXTREMIST GROUP
PROMOTING THE TRUCKER CONVOY
PROTESTS TO THEIR SUPPORTERS (U//FOUO)**



Sources: 4Chan, 27 January 2022

Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada ↔ MEDIUM ↔ MEDIUM Threat levels as of 1 December 2021. (U//FOUO)



An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**. (U//FOUO)



There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. (U//FOUO)



An act of terrorism directly affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR**. (U//FOUO)

- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur in Canada.** (U//FOUO)
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while performing their duties. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting uniformed personnel in Canada could occur.** (U//FOUO)



ITAC's Probability Yardstick tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

THREAT LEVEL		
		↔ established ↑ raised ↓ lowered ↔ remains
LEVELS	DESCRIPTIONS	LANGUAGE
CRITICAL		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY LIKELY and COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY .
HIGH	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the intent AND capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is LIKELY .
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism COULD OCCUR .
LOW	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the intent OR capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY .
VERY LOW	There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY UNLIKELY .

ITAC's Threat Level chart defines each threat level and describes the assessed likelihood of a violent act of terrorism. ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. Threat levels are determined based on several factors, including current intelligence, recent events, and the assessed intent, capabilities and opportunity available to terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that its information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning. See Confidence Levels.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL				
CRITERIA	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

ITAC's Confidence Levels chart outlines statements that accompany each ITAC product to inform the reader of ITAC's degree of confidence in its assessments. These levels are based on an evaluation of the available intelligence, the sources, and ITAC's assumptions and reasoning.

TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED		Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE		Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL		Capable of simple attacks

ITAC's Terrorist Group Capabilities chart describes the capabilities of a terrorist group to conduct an attack in a particular country where the group has already demonstrated intent. This metric is based on the methodology used to establish ITAC's terrorism threat levels. For the purposes of this metric, capability is defined as "the ability, capacity, competence or qualification" of a group to perpetrate a particular attack.

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